

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7, 8, and 13, and please amend claims 1 and 9 as follows (where unamended pending claims are shown in italics):

AS
1. (Amended) A recombinant nucleotide construct composed of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a species equivalent and encoding a mutated prolactin, wherein the expression of the sequence results in a mimic of a phosphorylated prolactin corresponding to a selected species, the mimic being capable of antagonizing growth promoting effects of non-phosphorylated prolactin in the selected species, the mimic being mutated at serine 179 or its selected species equivalent.

2. *The nucleotide sequence as in claim 1 wherein the serine mutation is by substitution.*

3. *The nucleotide sequence as in claim 1 wherein the serine is mutated by an aspartate or glutamate residue substitution.*

4. *The nucleotide sequence as in claim 1 herein the serine mutation is by an aspartate residue substitution.*

5. *A construct comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 3 or 4 operatively linked with an expression vector.*

6. *The construct as in claim 5 wherein the expression vector is mammalian, viral, or bacterial.*